

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W

----- 056241

O P 091512Z APR 75 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8242

INFO SECDEF PRIORITY

US MISSION NATO PRIORITY 2092

JCS PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USDELMC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAREUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFAE PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 2739

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJECT: GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: SECOND MEETING OF  
SUBGROUP ON SOFA QUESTIONS

REF: ATHENS 2717

USNATO ALSO FOR DEPASSTSECDEF BERGOLD

1. SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATUS OF FORCES QUESTIONS MET MORNING  
OF APRIL 9 FOR TWO HOURS. GREEK SIDE INCLUDED  
MACHERITSAS OF LEGAL SECTION AS WELL AS ECONOMIDES AND  
CONSTAS. US SIDE OPENED BY REITERATING THAT DISCUSSIONS  
EXPLORATORY, TO DEFINE POINTS OF AGREEMENT AND  
DISAGREEMENT. US SIDE NOTED THAT WHAT SUBGROUP ABLE  
TO AGREE ON CONCERNING SOFA QUESTIONS WOULD BE AFFECTED  
TO A DEGREE BY PROGRESS OR LACK THEREOF MADE ON OTHER  
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SUBJECTS UNDER DISCUSSION IN PLENARY; NOTED ITS

SATISFACTION WITH EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS BUT EXPRESSED  
READINESS TO STUDY WITH GREEK SIDE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WITH  
VIEW TO MODIFYING ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET GREEK REQUIREMENTS.  
US SIDE REFLECTED ITS SURPRISE AT INTRODUCTION BY  
GREEKS PREVIOUS DAY OF STATUS OF OTHER US PERSONNEL  
OFFICIALLY IN GREECE IN ADDITION TO STATUS OF US FORCES.  
CONSTAS COMMENTED THAT STATUS OF OTHER US PERSONNEL NOT  
UNRELATED TO US FORCES SINCE AGREEMENTS OF 1947-49  
INTENDED IN PART FOR PURPOSE OF FACILITATING SUPPLY OF  
MILITARY AID TO GREECE. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT VOA  
COULD BE USED IN TIME OF CONFLICT FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL  
WARFARE, IMPLYING A MILITARY CHARACTER TO THESE  
FACILITIES.

2. US SIDE ACKNOWLEDGED SIMPLE LOGIC AND SUPERFICIAL  
ATTRACTIVENESS OF GREEK PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH 1956 SOFA  
BILATERAL AND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF 1953 MILITARY  
FACILITIES AGREEMENT (MFA). US SIDE REVIEWED ORIGINS  
OF 1951 NATO SOFA, POINTING OUT THAT IT WAS LOWEST  
COMMON DENOMINATOR AND THAT ALL 12 PARTICIPANTS WERE  
WILLING IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER TO PROVIDE MORE  
FAVORABLE STATUS FOR VISITING FORCE. NATO SOFA NEITHER  
DESIGNED NOR INTENDED TO OPERATE IN A VACUUM, AND  
PARTIES TO SOFA INTENDED FOR IT TO BE IMPLEMENTED AND  
SUPPLEMENTED BY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN SENDING AND  
RECEIVING STATES. US SIDE CITED NATO SOFA PREAMBLE,  
ARTICLE IX, PARA 3 AND PARA 7, AND ARTICLE XI, PARA 4,  
ALL INDICATING THAT ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS CONTEMPLATED.  
US SIDE REFERRED TO EXISTENCE OF COMMISSIONARIES,  
EXCHANGES AND APO WHEREVER US FORCES PRESENT, NONE OF WHICH  
SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED FOR IN NATO SOFA, BUT  
WHICH EMBODIED IN BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. NATO SOFA WAS  
BASIC EDIFICE UPON WHICH ADDITIONAL STRUCTURES TO BE  
BUILT. US SIDE EXHIBITED SOFA WITH FRG AND CITED  
NETHERLANDS SOFA AS INDICATIONS RESPECTIVELY OF VERY  
EXTENSIVE AND RATHER BRIEF BILATERALS, IMPLEMENTING  
AND EXPANDING ON NATO SOFA OF THE KIND WE HAVE WITH OTHER  
NATO ALLIES. US SIDE NOTED 1953 MFA (APPENDIX I) AND  
1956 BILATERAL SOFA WERE VEHICLES WHEREBY NATO SOFA  
WAS EXPANDED AND IMPLEMENTED IN GREECE. ACKNOWLEDGING  
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THAT STATUS OF US FORCES IN GREECE SHOULD BE PREMISED  
UPON NATO SOFA AND THAT ANY BILATERAL HAD TO RESPECT  
SOVEREIGNTY OF GREECE AND US, US SIDE EXPRESSED DESIRE  
TO BE FORTHCOMING IN SOLVING ANY SPECIFIC PROBLEMS  
GREECE HAD.

3. US SIDE REFERRED TO CONCERN EXPRESSED PREVIOUS  
DAY BY GREEKS RELATING TO WAIVER PROVISION IN 1956 BI-

LATERAL, SURMISED THAT OTHER AREAS MIGHT BE TROUBLESOME TO GREEKS, AND EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS ANY SOFA PROVISION WHICH MIGHT BE OF CONCERN. REGARDING WAIVER, US SIDE POINTED OUT THAT 1956 BILATERAL STATED BASIC FACT, THAT VISITING FORCE ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR GOOD ORDER AND DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS OF THAT FORCE. NETHERLANDS FORMULA EMBODIED IN 1956 BILATERAL WAS THUS RECOGNITION OF THIS RESPONSIBILITY, WHICH WAS REFLECTED IN SIMILAR PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN OTHER BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. US SIDE PROVIDED TEXT OF ALTERNATIVE, AS PROVIDED IN BASIC GUIDANCE PAPER AND SUPPLEMENTED BY PROVISION OF 1956 BILATERAL CONCERNING TRIAL OBSERVERS. AFTER READING THIS TEXT, GREEK SIDE SOUGHT CLARIFICATION

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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O P 091512Z APR 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8243

INFO SECDEF PRIORITY

USMISSION NTATO PRIORITY

JCS PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USDELMC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAREUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNVEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFAE PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 2739

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

OF IDENTITY AND ROLE OF TRIAL OBSERVER, WHICH US SIDE PROVIDED. GREEKS SUGGESTED THAT GOG MIGHT WITH INCLUSION OF PROVISION SIMILARLY ALLOWING GOG TO

SEND ITS OBSERVER TO US COURTS-MARTIAL WHEN GREECE  
WAIVED ITS JURISDICTIONM. US SIDE POINTED OUT THAT  
COURTS-MARTIAL BY DEFINITION CONDUCTED PUBLIC TRIALS  
TO WHICH GREEK CRETAINLY COULD COME AND NOTED THAT  
US RECENTLY HAD INVITED GOG TO SEND OBSERVER TO  
PENDING TRIAL OF SANCHEZ.

4. ECONOMIDES ACCEPTED THAT SOFA ITSELF PROVIDED  
FOR FURTHER AGREEMENTS. GREEK SIDE HAD NO OBJECTION  
TO US SIDE SETTING FORTH PROPOSALS IN GENERAL SPIRIT  
AND FRAMEWORK OF SOFA TO SUPPLEMENT THAT DOCUMENT.  
REFERRING AGAIN TO CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM OF DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN BASIC MFA AND SECRET APPENDIX THERETO,  
ECONOMIDES REPEATED NEED TO "SUPPRESS SOME PROVISIONS"

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OF LATTER DOCUMENT. HE NOTED THAT IF ON SOME POINTS  
NEW AGREEMENT HAD TO DEVIATE FROM SOFA, THIS SHOULD  
BE DONE IN CONSIDERATION OF FUNCTIONAL NEEDS OF US  
FORCES BUT WITHOUT DEVIATING TOO FAR FROM NATO SOFA.

5. ECONOMIDES THEN ADDRESSED US DRAFT TEXT ON WAIVER,  
INDICATING HIS FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF FIRST PARA  
(WITH ADDITION OF SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO SOFA,  
ARICLE VII, PARA 3), SECOND PARA CONCERNING NOTIFI-  
CATION OF RESULTS OF WAIVED CASES, AND OF THIRD  
PARA WITH PROBABLE ADDITION OF A PROVISION ALLOWING GREEK  
OBSERVERS AS DISCUSSED ABOVE. ECONOMIDES ALSO AGREED  
WITH STATEMENT BY US SIDE THAT AGREEMENTS INTERRELATED  
AND RESULTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES WORK WOULD BE RELATED TO THAT  
OF OTHER COMMITTEES AND PLENARY.

6. RETURNING TO HIS DESIRE TO ADDRESS AGREEMENTS  
OF 1947-49, ECONOMIDES SAID THESE NO LONGER  
INDISPENSABLE TO US OFFICIALS IN GREECE. SINCE  
NEGOTIATION WAS INTENDED TO PRODUCE ENTIRELY NEW  
AGREEMENTS, THIS WAS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW  
OLD TEXTS WHICH HAD PROVED UNSATISFACTORY TO GREEK  
AUTHORITIES AND WHICH DID NOT CONFORM WITH PRESENT  
FUNCTIONAL NEEDS OF US TROOPS IN GREECE. AS TO  
METHOD, HE PROPOSED US REVIEW TEXTS OF 1953 AND  
1956 AGREEMENTS, SAYING WHICH PROVISIONS SHOULD  
IN US VIEW BE RETAINED OR ABOLISHED.

7. US SIDE WELCOMED ECONOMIDES REMARKS, WHICH BROUGHT  
POINTS OF VIEW CLOSER TOGETHER, AGREED THAT NATO  
SOFA WAS BASE BUT REITERATED NECESSITY THAT IT BE  
SUPPLEMENTED. US SIDE ACCEPTED IN GENERAL WORK  
METHOD PROPOSED BY GREEK SIDE, AND ADDED THAT IT  
WOSHED TO EXAMINE PROVISIONS WHICH GREEKS FOUND

UNSATISFACTORY AS WELL AS POINTING OUT THOSE WHICH  
US FOUND STILL SATISFACTORY, NOTING THAT US SIDE  
CLEARLY REGARDED ALL PROVISIONS AS SATISFACTORY  
SINCE IN US VIEW PURPOSE OF THESE AGREEMENTS HAD  
BEEN TO FILL GAPS AND SUPPLEMENT NATO SOFA BUT  
AGREEING THAT WHERE PROVISIONS WERE OBSOLETE OR  
REDUNDANT THEY COULD BE ABOLISHED. US SIDE PREFERRED

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TO LEAVE FOR OF AGREEMENT OPEN, AS NEW  
AGREEMENT MIGHT POSE PROBLEMS WHICH COULD BE  
OBLIVIATED UNDER REVISION OF OLD AGREEMENT.

8. NEXT MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE WILL DEPEND UPON  
ACTION TAKEN BY APRIL 10 PLENARY TO FIX FURTHER  
PLENARY SESSIONS OR ORGANIZE ADDITIONAL SUBCOMMITTEES.  
KUBISCH

NOTE BY OC/T: SECTION 1 NOT YET RECEIVED.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASES, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ATHENS02739  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750123-0578  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 246  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 75 ATHENS 2717  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: SECOND MEETING OF SUBGROUP ON SOFA QUESTIONS  
**TAGS:** MARR, GR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006